

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY SHEET

It is noted that the Examiner still has not completed items 10 and 12 of the Office Action Summary Sheet, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the English language drawings filed on March 29, 2002, and confirm that the drawings are acceptable.

THE CLAIMS

Independent claims 12-15 have been amended to even more clearly recite that the electric copy board receives, from a terminal via a computer network, a designation of encoded image data that is stored in the storage section, and that the designated encoded image data is transferred to the terminal via the computer network. See, for example, Fig. 8.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims are clarifying in nature and that no new matter has been added and that no new issues with respect to patentability have been raised. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments be approved and entered under 37 CFR 1.116.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 2, 3, 9, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 6,744,426 ("Okamoto et al") and US 2002/0051220 ("Tanaka et al"), and claims 13-15 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 6,744,426 ("Okamoto et al") and USP 6,639,585 ("Nagai et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Okamoto et al discloses "a transfer section (301, fig. 5) configured to transfer, via a computer network (300) to [a] terminal, encoded image data that is designated by the terminal and that is stored by the storage section (fig. 5), in response to a request issued from the terminal when the terminal accesses the electric copy board via the computer network" (emphasis added). However, in the following sentence the Examiner acknowledges that Okamoto et al does not disclose a storage section.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Okamoto et al clearly cannot disclose accepting a designation of encoded image data that is stored in a storage section, in the manner of the claimed present invention.

Indeed, in item 3 on page 4 of the Office Action the Examiner admits that Okamoto et al "does not disclose [that] the image data is designated by the terminal and is stored in the storage section."

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Okamoto et al clearly does not disclose that the transferred image data is stored in a storage section and designated by the terminal, as recited in claim 12 as presented in the Amendment filed December 20, 2005.

Nevertheless, independent claims 12 and 13 have been amended as set forth hereinabove to even more clearly recite that the electric copy board of the present invention comprises a control section configured to receive, from a terminal via the computer network, a designation of encoded image data that is stored in the storage section. In addition, independent claims 14 and 15 have been amended to recite receiving at the electric copy board, from a terminal via a computer network, a designation of encoded image data that is stored in the storage section. And according to the present invention as recited in amended claims 12-15, the designated encoded image data that is stored in the storage section is transferred to the terminal via the computer network.

It is respectfully submitted that Okamoto et al merely discloses transmitting data from a white board 1 via a PC 100

connected thereto, through a LAN 103 or modem 108/telephone line 109 connected to the PC 100.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Tanaka et al merely discloses a facsimile apparatus having a storage section, and that even if the storage section of Tanaka et al were combinable with the electric white board of Okamoto et al in the manner suggested by the Examiner, such combination would still fail to disclose, teach or suggest receiving from a terminal via a computer network a designation of encoded image data stored at an electric copy board, and transmitting the encoded image data from the electric copy board to the terminal via the computer network, as according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 12-15.

Still further, it is noted that on page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner has cited Nagai et al with respect to receiving a designation of image data by a terminal.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that column 9, lines 27-37 of Nagai et al cited by the Examiner is merely a repetition of the disclosure in Okamoto et al at column 9, line 64 to column 10, line 7. And, as recognized by the Examiner, Okamoto et al does not disclose an electric white board which stores image data and accepts a designation of stored image data from a terminal via a computer network.

In fact, Nagai et al merely discloses that the electronic white board 1 thereof transmits image data to the PC 100 via a cable, and that the PC 100 is connected to a LAN 103 to enable communication with other computers. Nagai et al, however, does not disclose, teach or suggest that a computer terminal designates image data stored in the white board 1 via a computer network, and that the designated image data is transferred to the computer terminal, as recited in amended independent claims 12-15.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 12-15, and claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 depending from claim 12, clearly patentably distinguishes over Okamoto et al, Tanaka et al and Nagai et al, taken singly or in any combination under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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